

## A Study of the Book of Philippians

### Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!"

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 16 Chapter 2:25-30

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BIBLE TEXT:



*(1) So if there is any encouragement in **Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in **the Spirit**, any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

*(5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**, (6) **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped**, (7) **but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men**. (8) **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**. (9) **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name**, (10) **so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth**, (11) **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**.*

*(12) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is **God** who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

*(14) Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

*(16) holding fast to the word of life, so that in **the day of Christ** I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*

*(17) Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (18) Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*

*(19) I hope in **the Lord Jesus** to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. (20) For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. (21) They all seek their own interests, not those of **Jesus Christ**. (22) But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. (23) I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, (24) and I trust in **the Lord** that shortly I myself will come also.*

*(25) I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, (26) for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. (27) Indeed he was ill, near to death. But **God** had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. (28) I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. (29) So receive him in **the Lord** with all joy, and honor such men, (30) for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.*

## STUDY NOTES:

- Epaphroditus had a close brush with death, has survived, and now is being sent home to Philippi.  
(1 Cor 12:9)

-He is called a messenger and minister between Paul and the Philippians  
(Rom 16:3-9,21; 1 Cor 8:23; Col 4:11; Phm 1,2)

-Christian brethren have a genuine and concern for the wellbeing of their fellow Christians  
(Ac 20:24; 1 Cor 16:16-18; 2 Cor 4:8; 11:28; 1 Thess 5:12,13; 1 Tim 5:17)

### Epaphroditus IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

(Philippians 4:18-23) I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from **Epaphroditus** the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (19) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (20) To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (21) Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. (22) All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. (23) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

## LIFE APPLICATION:

Why do we rejoice at seeing our Christian friends again, and receive them in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, for completing what was lacking in our service to others?

## LUTHER'S WORKS: Concern and love among Christians for other people's sufferings

(Vol. 26, pp. 420–42) “Therefore the apostles had not only physical but also spiritual trials. Paul testifies to this about himself in 2 Cor. 7:5, where he speaks of “fighting without and fear within.” In the last chapter of Acts (28:15) Luke says that after Paul had struggled for a long time in a stormy sea and was sad in spirit, he was restored and took courage upon seeing the brethren who came from Rome to meet him at the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns. And in Phil. 2:27 he confesses that God had mercy on him when He cured **Epaphroditus**, who was ill and near to death, lest Paul should have sorrow upon sorrow. In addition to their outward physical trials, therefore, the apostles also suffered sorrow of the spirit.”

(Vol. 51, pp. 232–233) “For the steadfast man is not the one who thinks himself so strong that he refuses to be touched when a good friend has slipped away; rather the Christian is one who is hurt but yet endures it in such a way that the spirit rules the flesh. For God has not created man to be a stick or a stone. He has given him five senses and a heart of flesh in order that he may love his friends, be angry with his enemies, and to lament and grieve when his dear friends suffer evil. Thus St. Paul also says in Phil. 2 [:27] that his heart was grieved for his servant **Epaphroditus** and that God had had mercy not only on **Epaphroditus** but on him and permitted him to be restored, lest he should have sorrow upon sorrow. Christ also was deeply moved at the death of Lazarus in John 11 [:33]. These and similar examples are far more sure and better than this unprofitable chatter which would make sticks and stones of us and forbid us to weep or sorrow over the deceased.”